

A NEW SPECIES OF *LIPARIS* RICH. (ORCHIDACEAE) FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND

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Summary

Liparis collinsii B. Gray, a new species of *Liparis* Rich. section *Liparis*, is described and illustrated. In addition notes on its taxonomic affinities, habitat, distribution and conservation status are given.

Taxonomy

Liparis collinsii B. Gray, sp. nov. Differt a *L. simmondsio* Bailey pseudobulbis brevioribus validioribus et foliis angustioribus lanceolatis epetiolatis basi vaginantibus. **Typus:** Cult. Atherton ex Queensland, Timber Reserve 14, Parish of Kesteven, 13°46'S, 143°21'E, 740 m, 13 September 1990, B. Gray 5269 (holo: QRS; iso: BRI,CANB, NSW).

Erect terrestrial herb, deciduous, glabrous, 25-50 cm tall. Pseudobulb fleshy, ± elliptic in cross section, broadest near the base, tapering to the apex, 6-10 cm long, 2-3 cm diameter; bracts 2-4, ovate, sheathing, strongly ribbed, apex acute; new shoot arising from the base of the old. Leaves (3-4)-6; lamina lanceolate, 10-13 cm long, 4-5 cm wide, somewhat plicate, with 4 or 5 reddish purple ribs below, margin undulate, apex acute. Petiole broad, sheathing, 5-7 cm long. Inflorescence terminal, erect, a 10-20-flowered raceme, 25-35 cm long; peduncle 4-angled, slightly winged, about as long as the rhachis; bracts 1 or 2, linear-triangular, 6-9 mm long, 2.0-2.5 mm wide; floral bracts linear, 2-6 mm long, c. 1 mm wide, acute; pedicel with ovary 10-16 mm long. Flowers spreading widely, 2.0-2.5 cm diameter. Dorsal sepal linear to narrowly ovate, 12-14 mm long, 3.0-3.5 mm wide, pale purplish green, margin revolute. Lateral sepals elliptic, somewhat falcate, 9-10 mm long, 3.0-3.5 mm wide, pale purplish cream, revolute. Petals filiform, 11-14 mm long, 1.4-1.5 mm wide, purple, strongly revolute (rolled into a very narrow tube). Labellum obovate, c. 13 mm long, 8-10 mm wide, greenish to greenish cream at the base, suffused with maroon towards the apex, ventral surface with a narrow maroon central line from the base to apex; base cuneate; apex truncate to ± emarginate; margin denticulate near the apex; semierect in the basal third, and channelled then decurved through 90° and spreading, with 2 calli on the ventral surface; calli c. 2 mm long, 0.5 mm diameter. Column arcuate, c. 7 mm long, 2 mm diameter, greenish cream. Anther cap 1.3-1.4 × 1.3 mm. Pollinia 4, in 2 pairs.

Distribution and habitat: This species is at present known only from the McIlwraith Range on Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. It grows among granite boulders in relatively open areas in rain forest above 700 m altitude. Plants occur in loose colonies and are leafless throughout the dry season. (June to November or December).

Flowering period: Time of flowering in nature is not known but probably occurs soon after the onset of the wet season. In cultivation flowering occurred from November to January, while the plants were in full growth. Individual flowers last 7-10 days.

Notes: *L. collinsii* is most closely related to *L. simmondsii* Bailey but can be readily distinguished from that by its shorter, stouter pseudobulbs and the narrower, lanceolate non-petiolate leaves which are sheathing at the base. The two species have distinct geographic ranges. *L. simmondsii* has not been recorded north of the Mossman River, which is 350 km south of the McIlwraith Range.

The widespread *L. habenarina* (F. Muell.) Benth. which occurs in open forest and grassland situations of north and eastern Australia differs from *L. collinsii* in having narrower leaves and pseudobulbs which are produced below ground level.

Of the several species in New Guinea, *L. oligantha* Schltr. and *L. finnisterrae* Schltr. appear to be related to *L. collinsii* but are quite distinct.

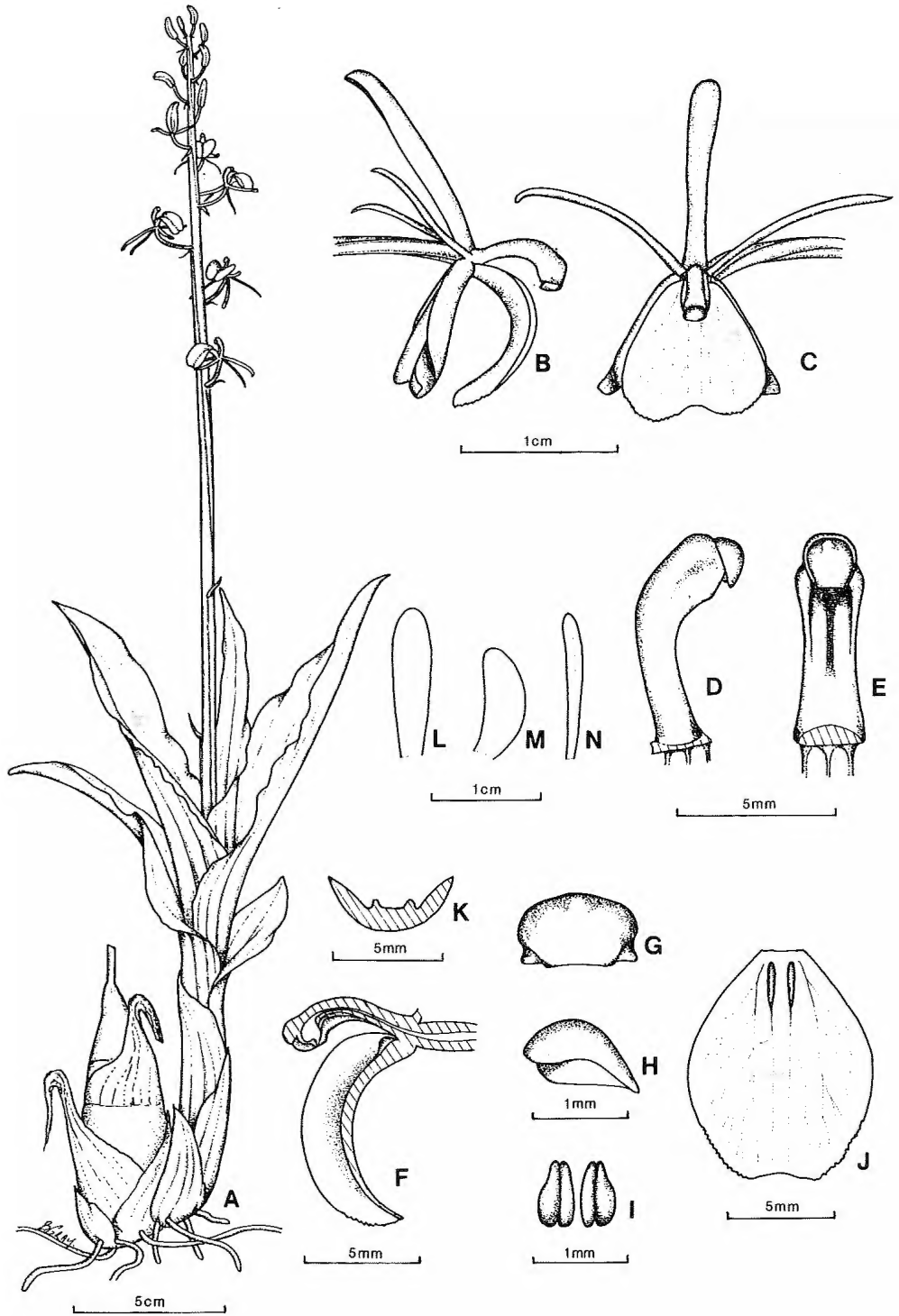


Fig. 1. *Liparis collinsii*: A. habit. B. flower from side. C. flower from front. D. column from side. E. column from front. F. section through column and labellum. G. anther from front. H. anther from side. I. pollinia. J. labellum flattened. K. section through base of labellum. L. dorsal sepal flattened. M. lateral sepal flattened. N. sepal flattened. All from Gray 5269.

Conservation status: This species is poorly known and its distribution, even within the McIlwraith Range area is uncertain.

Etymology: It gives me great pleasure to name this orchid after the late Rev. R.D. (Ron) Collins of Atherton. Ron had a great interest in orchids, was a good friend and accompanied me on many field trips to Cape York Peninsula.

References

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